

**U.S. Representative Tim Burchett**  
**FY2022 Member Designated Project Request**  
**House Committee on Transportation & Infrastructure**

*Priority Submission Deadline: March 26, 2021; Late Submission Deadline: April 16, 2021*

**Project Sponsor** (State DOT, MPO, transit agency, etc.):  
Blount County Highway Department

**Address of Sponsor:**  
1227 McArthur Road  
Maryville, Tennessee 37804

**Website of Sponsor:**

<https://www.blounttn.org/175/Highway-Department>

**Sponsor Point of Contact** (Name, Email, Phone):  
Blount County Highway Superintendent Jeff Headrick  
[jheadrick@blounttn.org](mailto:jheadrick@blounttn.org)  
(865) 982-4652

Staff: Don Walker  
[dwalker@blounttn.org](mailto:dwalker@blounttn.org)  
865-207-5716

**Type of Project:**

- ☐ Highway
- ☐ Bridge
- ☐ Transit
- ☒ Bike/Ped
- ☐ Multimodal
- ☐ Other: \_\_\_\_\_

**Name of Project:**  
Blount County Greenway

**Location of Project and Congressional District** (Street and Zip Code, City, State):  
TN-02, The project will be contained in the right-of-way of US 321 in Blount County, Tennessee 37804. The greenway will start at the intersection of U.S. 321 and Helton Rd. and terminate at the parking lot at Perry's Mill on U.S. 321

**Project Description, including a description of the benefits of the project. Include a link to additional project information, if available:**

This is a three-mile greenway that falls in TDOT's right-of-way along US 321. It will run from the Maryville City Limits (Helton Road) past Heritage High School and terminates at Perry's Mill parking lot along the Little River.

With no greenways in rural Blount County, this first section of construction funding will provide a unique opportunity for pedestrians and cyclists that currently does not exist in the unincorporated portions of the county. It will provide access to businesses and schools for those walking or bicycling as well.

The Blount County Greenway Trail Phase 1 was approved for PE/NEPA and design with TAP funds from Heritage Middle School to Perry's Mill. Additional TAP funds were awarded for the inclusion of the above Phase 1 Revised PE/NEPA and design.

The purpose of this proposed project is to take an additional step in completing a 14-mile greenway from Maryville to Townsend.

This section of proposed greenway is part of a larger concept to connect greenways from Knoxville to the entrance of the Great Smoky Mountains in Townsend, Tennessee. A coalition of local governments have formed the Great Smoky Mountains Regional Greenway Council to develop this larger concept. See: <https://knoxblounttrail.org/>

**Website link to the project on the State, Tribal, or territorial transportation improvement program (STIP) or the metropolitan transportation improvement program (TIP):**

Knoxville Regional Transportation Organizations (TPO) Transportation Improvement Plan FY 2020-FY 2023 See page 34.

<https://knoxtpo.org/projects/transportation-improvement-program/>

This project is part of the Council's Master Plan (Knoxville to the Smokies Greenway). The Master Plan was adopted in 2013.

<https://smokymountainsgreenways.org/>

This project is also part of the Knoxville TPO's Draft Mobility Plan 2045. (Page 16)

<https://knoxmobility.org/home/review/draft/2021/april/appendices/Appendix%20G%20Project%20Lists%20and%20Performance.pdf>

**If the project is not included on the STIP/TIP, is the project on a regional or statewide long-range transportation plan?**

**Amount of Funding Requested:**

**Total Project Cost: \$4,276,000**

**Sources of funding for the remaining cost of the amount requested (must already be secured):** Yes. The Blount County Highway Department has this in its budget.

**If the project has received previous Federal funding, please list the source(s) and amount(s):**

\$200,440 for NEPA from the Knoxville TPO.

**A description of the process that has been or will be followed to provide an opportunity for public comment on the project:**

This project has been presented twice to the Blount County Commission during normal meetings. Each time the project was discussed publicly, and the Commission approved a local match for a grant application.

**Project phase (e.g. Planning, Final Design, Construction):**

**National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) category of action (e.g. Categorical Exclusion, Environmental Assessment, Environmental Impact Statement):**

NEPA study is near complete: Categorical Exclusion.

**Status of environmental review:** It is anticipated that NEPA will be concluded within two months.

**Explanation for why the project is an appropriate use of taxpayer funds:**

According to the Great Smoky Mountains Regional Greenway Council, the estimated fiscal benefit to Blount County is \$65 million over 10 years. That's \$2.66 in returns for every \$1 invested. That's on top of the health benefits and the community cohesion that greenways bring.

The Council also estimated that the greenway would be used by 43,000 non local users annually and another 65,700 local users. It estimated a user would spend \$43.22 per day that would lead to \$2.8 million in an annual output for tourism.

This greenway will connect Heritage Middle and High School to Perry's Mill. Perry's Mill is a popular water recreation site on the Little River. Perry's Mill site is used for fishing, swimming, canoeing and kayaking.

**Is this request being made by another Member? If so, by whom?** No.

**Please attach any letter(s) of support from the State department of transportation or local government, transit agency, or other non-Federal sponsor, or other evidence of support:**

*The above information is necessary for submission of a Member Designated Project Request through the House Committee on Transportation & Infrastructure. These questions are not exhaustive, and if chosen the Office of Congressman Tim Burchett may reach out to the listed point of contact for additional information. Submission of a Member Designated Project Request to the Office of Congressman Tim Burchett is not a guarantee of the proposed project's inclusion in House transportation legislation. Any submissions may be made public on either Congressman Tim Burchett's website or websites affiliated with the House Committee on Transportation & Infrastructure. By submitting a request, you certify that neither Congressman Tim Burchett nor his immediately family have a financial interest in the proposed project. The Office of Congressman Tim Burchett retains the right to implement internal guidelines above and beyond Committee guidance.*



# Blount Partnership

April 26, 2021

Dear Sir or Madam:

I am writing this letter in support of Blount County's efforts toward making a greenway connection from Maryville to Townsend, Tennessee.

Blount County is seeking funding for the first three-mile section of this greenway. This will be the first section of the Maryville-to-Townsend greenway connection that will provide 14 miles of trail connecting Maryville to the Great Smoky Mountains National Park at Townsend. This regional effort would link pedestrians and cyclists from Knoxville through Blount County to Townsend and the Smokies via a greenway trail. This second phase of the project would include a paved trail beginning at the Maryville City limits, pass by Heritage High School, and terminate at Perry's Mill parking area. The entire project will fall within the existing right-of-way of Lamar Alexander Parkway/Highway 321. The connection between Maryville and Townsend is a key element in the vision to link Knoxville to Townsend, a gateway to the Great Smoky Mountains National Park.

The estimated fiscal benefit to Blount County is \$65 million over 10 years. For every \$1 spent on construction and maintenance, it is expected a return on investment of \$2.66. Communities with greenway systems also reap economic gains with corporate and industrial recruitment that would be a huge benefit to Blount County and the region. We anticipate that this trail will improve both the physical health and the economic prosperity of Blount County and its citizens.

Sincerely,

Bryan T. Daniels, CEcD, CCE, IOM  
President & CEO

Chris Soro, Chair  
Blount Partnership Board of Directors

BTD/bsf



ART SWANN  
STATE SENATOR  
2<sup>nd</sup> SENATORIAL DISTRICT  
BLOUNT AND PART OF SEVIER COUNTIES

E-MAIL  
sen.art.swann@capitol.tn.gov

LEGISLATIVE OFFICE  
748 CORDELL HULL BUILDING  
425 REP. JOHN LEWIS WAY, NORTH  
NASHVILLE, TN 37243  
615.741.0981  
1.800.449.8366 Ext. 10981  
FAX: 615.253.0224

## Senate Chamber State of Tennessee

NASHVILLE

April 26, 2021

To Whom It May Concern:

I am pleased to provide this letter of endorsement for the proposed construction of a greenway for the first three-mile section from Maryville to Townsend, Tennessee.

This greenway development will not only serve as a recreational opportunity for our residents and our visitors alike, but as a transportation alternative to the many people who would rather bike or walk than take an automobile. The ultimate construction of this greenway will provide an important link in creating a trail system throughout the city and beyond.

For these reasons, I wholeheartedly support the application of the development of this greenway and look forward to its construction and use.

I would appreciate your giving this grant application every proper consideration. Thank you for your time and attention to this matter and for your dedicated service to the people of Tennessee.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Art Swann".

Art Swann  
State Senator

pf

cc: Mr. Don Walker



April 23, 2021

Dear Congressman Tim Burchett:

This letter is to express support of the Blount Partnership and Smoky Mountain Tourism Development Authority in their efforts toward making a greenway connection from Maryville to Townsend, Tennessee.

The Maryville-to-Townsend greenway connection is a two-phase project that will provide 14 miles of trail connecting Maryville to the Great Smoky Mountains National Park at Townsend. This regional effort will link pedestrians and cyclists from Knoxville through Blount County to Townsend and the Smokies via a greenway trail. The second phase of the project would include a paved trail beginning at Heritage High School and continue with the right-of-way of Lamar Alexander Parkway/Highway 321 to Townsend. The connection between Maryville and Townsend is a key element in the vision to link Knoxville to Townsend, a gateway to the Great Smoky Mountains National Park.

The estimated fiscal benefit to Blount County is \$65 million over a 10-year period. For every \$1 spent on construction and maintenance, a return on investment of \$2.66 is expected. Communities with greenway systems also reap economic gains with corporate and industrial recruitment that would be a great benefit to Blount County and the region. We anticipate that this trail will improve both the physical health and the economic prosperity of Blount County and its citizens.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "K. Clayton", is written over a light gray background.

Kevin Clayton  
5000 Clayton Road  
Maryville, TN 37804

KTC:sdc